

# GOSV NEWS



The latest from the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism

May/ June 2011

## Features

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## \$4.2 billion

The value of Marylanders' volunteer service to local communities and citizens.

Out of the Ordinary  
Volunteer Opportunities

### Therapeutic Gardening

Talmar Gardens is seeking volunteers 15 and over to serve as floral designers, gardeners, and greenhouse workers. [Click here for application instructions.](#)

### Supporting Veterans

The VA Maryland Health Care System is offering specialized training for volunteers to learn how to comfort Veterans and their families at the end stage of life. Veterans encouraged to apply, as they can understand the experiences of fellow veterans.

For more information call Ms. Swann, Voluntary Service Specialist, at 1-800-463-6295, ext.

Welcome to the latest issue of GOSV News. Since March, the Office has taken part in some exciting activities with our partners. In early May, we joined forces with [Maryland Council of Directors of Volunteer Services](#) to host [Service Shines Through](#), a free volunteer management conference, where participants took part in professional development workshops and networking. We also hosted the 2011 Governor's Service Awards, and supported [Volunteer Maryland's Destination AmeriCorps](#).

Now we are gearing up for the Governor's Volunteer Appreciation Day at the Maryland State Fair. Like last year, the GOSV will be offering discount entry passes for Maryland's volunteers. These passes will be available for download from our homepage in June.

Please have a safe and fun Memorial Day weekend and we look forward to hearing about your summer service and volunteerism activities.

-The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism

## Spotlight On: Volunteer Southern Maryland

If you live, work, or often visit St. Mary's, Charles, or Calvert Counties, do yourself a favor and get to know Volunteer Southern Maryland, the area's volunteer center. Since 2002, the center has connected over 250 nonprofit organizations to over 1,000 volunteers.

Located on the College of Southern Maryland campus, the center is affiliated with 1-800-VOLUNTEER.ORG and visitors can access the services for free at [www.csmd.edu/vsmd](http://www.csmd.edu/vsmd). After nonprofits register as an organization on the site, they have the ability to post opportunities and events for volunteers. Potential volunteers can search these opportunities and then create a free account to directly connect with an organization.



One of the Center's main goals is to "participate in strategic initiatives that mobilize volunteers to meet local community needs." To meet this goal, the center is working with a consultant and local nonprofits to identify pressing community needs. Once needs are identified, a plan will be developed for the center to provide volunteer resources to address these issues. This assessment is made possible in part by the [Volunteer Generation Fund](#).

Volunteer Southern Maryland connects with its community through a variety of other activities. Every other month, the center hosts brown bag lunches to focus on critical areas of need and provide for local networking opportunities. The center often holds book drives, DVD

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**For Older Adults in Western Maryland**

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Allegany and Garrett Counties is recruiting volunteers 55 and over. Serve at a sewing group, a food bank, a writing center, or any number of other locations. For more information, call Edward Zook, Director of RSVP at 301-783-1755.



We interviewed Michael, an AmeriCorps member with PALS in Salisbury. [Watch the interview here.](#)

drives, and drop-in service opportunities such as writing letters to service members. They also partner with the College of Southern Maryland and its teen "Community Service Camp" by providing nonprofits in the 1-800-VOLUNTEER database service opportunities for the participants in the week-long camp.

The center is located at 8730 Mitchell Road, P.O. Box 910, La Plata, MD 20646. On campus, you can visit them in LR Building, Room 205.

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## Commissioner Corner: Cherie Krug

"I don't remember not being involved in volunteerism," says Cherie Krug, a member of the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism. As a child growing up in rural Connecticut, she recalls taking part in local American Cancer Society fundraising activities and seeing her parents helping neighbors in need. She says the concept of helping others was instilled into her.

Now, as the Director of Major Gifts at Frostburg State University (FSU) she has the opportunity to support, through time and money, a variety of projects in her Western Maryland community. She currently supports the City of Cumberland's Parks and Recreation as "it's important to preserve our green spaces and offer family activities" in the area. She and her husband volunteer with Special Olympics and she is a member of the board for the United Way, which supports a broad base of agencies.

Krug was the first woman in her family to graduate college and she now supports the university's abilities to help to its students achieve. One of her proudest volunteer experiences was when she helped Tony Washington, a FSU alum, bring Relay for Life to their campus about 10 years ago. She is thankful to have met cancer survivors and "students who have raised so much support for research for cancer."

Before moving to Maryland, Krug lived in New York and volunteered weekly in a soup kitchen. Over time, she progressed through the ranks of a server to salad maker to meal preparer and finally to an assistant cook. Through this experience she had the opportunity to cook side by side with chefs from local restaurants and culinary schools. She was even offered a job by a local restaurant to cook based upon her efforts at the kitchen. Volunteering gave Krug the chance to try new things outside of her full-time career. "Think about this job market," Krug says. "Volunteering is an opportunity to use your skills and try out new ones that you may have never had the chance to explore."

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## Congratulations to the 2011 Governor's Service Award Recipients!

**Youth: Individual****Josie Grant of Taneytown**

Volunteers with: Josie's Smiles for Pediatrics and other health-focused causes

Josie started her own foundation, Josie's Smiles for Pediatrics. To date, Josie has delivered approximately \$23,000 of donations to the local hospital.

**Youth: Group****DeMatha Catholic High School hockey team of Hyattsville**

Volunteers help local family in need.

The team provided supplies and gifts to a family during the winter season and continues to mentor the children.

**National Service****Katherine Garcia of Rockville**

Serves with: Project CHANGE AmeriCorps program, at Montgomery County Public School's Study Circles

Katherine worked with a school principal to meet with parents at home when a traditional meeting model was unsuccessful.

**Adult: Individual****Robbyn Lewis of Baltimore**

Volunteers with: Patterson Park Neighborhood Association

Robbyn leads the organization's greening efforts to reduce blight, encourage community involvement, and improve the urban tree canopy.

**Older Adults****Vince DelGavio of Parkville**

Volunteers with: Parkville Senior Center

Vince volunteered 1,100 hours at the center in 2010 and led physical fitness efforts.

**Dan Blades of Bowie**

Volunteers with: Christmas in April and disaster response training

Dan established a task force to address severe house repair issues for a family in need.

**Adult: Group****VEX Robotics Competition Volunteers from Maryland**

Volunteers organized 14 days of robotics competitions across Maryland.

There are over 200 VEX Robotics volunteers that promote teamwork and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) skills.

**Faith-based Group****The Disciples in Action School Support Team of Hagerstown**

Volunteers with: Eastern and Lincolnshire Elementary Schools

Volunteers donate supplies to students and adopt approximately 30 families each holiday season for gift giving.

**Nonprofits**

**Manna Food Center of Gaithersburg**

Volunteers support the designated food bank for Montgomery County.

The Center provides emergency food assistance to food insecure families through schools, 48 partner agencies, and their shop front.

**Maryland Coastal Bays Volunteer Water Monitors of Ocean City**

Volunteers collect data to monitor the health of Maryland's waterways.

They monitor over 25 aquatic sites throughout the watershed.

**For Profit****The Michael Group of Baltimore**

Volunteers with: Y of Central Maryland and other local projects

The company donated time and materials to renovate the Druid Hill Family Center.

**Lifetime Achievement****James Benton**

Volunteers with: Deal Island Elementary School in Somerset County

James volunteers thousands of hours at the school and organizes an annual Veterans Day program.

**Special Honorees**

**U. S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center**

**Calvert Marine Museum Volunteer Council**

**The Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland**

**Maryland Defense Force**

[Read more about the honorees here.](#)

